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TEMPERATURE CONTROL DEVICE FOR DRINKING GLASSES
[Temperiereinrichtung für Trinkgläser]

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Description /1*

This invention relates to a temperature control device for drinking glasses, which can be made, in particular, in the form of a drinking glass cooler.

Numerous types of drinks, particularly alcoholic drinks such as wine, sparkling wine, and champagne, are preferably consumed in a cooled state. In order to keep the drinks cool, the drink bottles are typically kept cold in the refrigerator until they are served. For sparkling wine and champagne bottles, so-called champagne cooler buckets are also available, which can be filled with ice cubes or the like and in which the bottle is kept until it is completely empty. In this way, the drink contained in the bottle is cooled until it is poured.

However, as soon as the drink has been poured into a drinking glass, it starts to warm to the ambient temperature, which may be seen as a disadvantage, particularly by people who drink slowly. Moreover, the usual practice of adding ice cubes for additional cooling is unsatisfactory, since the drink can become more and more "watered down" over time, thereby degrading the taste of the drink.

Thus, the object of the present invention is to provide a device that will make it possible to keep a drink that is already in a drinking glass at a certain temperature or to actively cool it, without adversely affecting the taste of the drink.

* Number in the margin indicates pagination in the foreign text.

This object is achieved in accordance with the invention by a /2
temperature control device for drinking glasses, as recited in Claim 1.

The inventive temperature control device has a body with at least one longitudinal recess extending continuously from the upper side, O, of the body to its lower side, U, for receiving a drinking glass. The recess or opening, which extends across the entire length of the body, serves to receive a drinking glass, in particular a wine, sparkling wine, beer, juice, or champagne glass. Before and after being filled with the drink, the drinking glass is inserted into the recess, essentially remaining in the temperature control device as long as it is used. The body and the at least one recess are preferably approximately as long as the length of the drinking glass body itself, i.e., for long-stemmed glasses as long as the length of the hollow body of the glass. In this way, the hollow body of the drinking glass is essentially completely surrounded by the body of the temperature control device, so that effective temperature control or cooling is possible.

The inventive temperature control device preferably has a stand, which is attached to the body or is made in one piece with it. First of all, the stand provides a secure base for the body of the temperature control device and it may optionally serve as a handle, as well. The stand may be fixedly attached to the body or it may be

separable. Alternatively, it may also be made in one piece with the body or transition into the latter.

Since drinking glasses or the hollow body of drinking glasses are generally circular in shape, the recess of the inventive temperature control device is preferably made with a circular cross section. It should be pointed out in this regard that the shape and size of the recess should generally be adapted to the shape and size of the drinking glass it is to accommodate, in order to assure good heat transfer between the inside of the body and the drinking glass wall, when the temperature control device is made as a glass cooler, and to provide a good insulating effect, when the temperature control device is made as an "insulator."

According to a particularly preferred embodiment, the inventive /3 temperature control device has a longitudinal slit, which extends essentially parallel to the recess, forming a lateral access to the recess. In this way, a drinking glass may be inserted into the recess not only from above, but also from the side. This embodiment has proven advantageous, in particular, for cooling long-stemmed glasses, since in this case the lateral slit can be made with a very small width, so that the body essentially completely surrounds the hollow body of the drinking glass.

The temperature control or cooling can be implemented in various ways. First of all, an integrated electrical cooling device can be provided. The power supply for the cooling device can be provided,

for example, by batteries, solar or photovoltaic elements, a power plug, or some other suitable power source. It is also possible to provide body of the inventive temperature control device with a cavity. This cavity can either be evacuated for insulation purposes, like a thermos, or it can be filled with coolant, such as cooling gel, water, or ice cubes. In the latter case, of course, a suitable opening must be provided for filling. In principle, of course, instead of a cooling agent for a cooling device, appropriate means can also be used for heating, if a hot drink is to be temperature-controlled.

According to an additional embodiment, the body of the inventive temperature control device is solid, for example it is made of an insulating material. In this case, there is no active cooling (or heating), but insulation of the drinking glass body toward the outside.

The following materials have proven to be particularly suitable for producing the inventive temperature control device; they may be used individually or in combination, depending on whether an insulating effect or good thermal conductivity is desired:

Glass, acrylic, plastics, artificial stone, natural stone, /4 clay, ceramics, porcelain, and stainless steel.

The stand preferably has an enlarged foot part on its lower end, the cross-sectional area of which is at least approximately the cross-sectional area of the recess. In this way, it is more resistant

to tipping over when the temperature control device containing the drinking glass is put down. This design has proven particularly advantageous when long-stemmed drinking glasses are used.

The invention will be explained in greater detail below, with reference to the accompanying drawing, in which

Figure 1 shows a first embodiment of a temperature control device according to the invention,

Figure 2 shows a second embodiment of a temperature control device according to the invention, and

Figure 3 shows a third embodiment of a temperature control device according to the invention, which is suitable for a plurality of drinking glasses.

The inventive temperature control device in its entirety is indicated by the reference numbers 1. Figures 1 and 2 show various embodiments of a temperature control device for an individual drinking glass. Extending from the upper side 0 to the lower side U of the body 2 of the temperature control device 1, which can be made as a cooler or as an insulating device, is a continuous recess 3, which receives a drinking glass, in this case a sparkling wine glass. The body 2 can be solid or have an internal cavity for receiving a coolant or for maintaining a vacuum. It is also possible to place a cooling device (not shown) in or on the body 2.

On one side of the body 2 a holding device or a stand 4 is attached or made in one piece with the body 2. Due to the stand 4, /5

the body 2 is held at a distance from the supporting surface, such as a tabletop. Moreover, in the embodiments shown in Figures 1 and 2, the stand 4 serves as a handle, so that the temperature control device can be held in the hand comfortably over a long period of time, for example during a party.

The body 2 in this case has a longitudinal slit 5, which extends essentially parallel to the recess 3. By means of the slit 5, a stemmed glass can be inserted laterally at the stem into the recess and then pushed downward, until the hollow body of the drinking glass is essentially completely in the recess 3. As seen in Figure 2, the slit 5 can also be widened at the top, so that the glass can be inserted laterally into the recess both by the stem and by the narrow lower side of the hollow body.

In this case, the lower end of the stand 4 transitions into an enlarged foot part 6, providing the entire device with a more secure stance. The enlarged foot part 6 can be produced in various ways, as seen in the figures. Alternatively, it can be made as a separate part that is either fixedly or separably attached to the stand 4.

Figure 3 shows an example of a multi-glass temperature control device or a multi-glass cooler. Like the corresponding single-glass cooler, the multi-glass cooler also has a body 2, which in this case is provided with a plurality of recesses 3 for receiving drinking glasses. The recesses 3 are connected on the outside by the slits 5, these slits being wider than those shown in Figure 1. At its center,

the body 2 transitions into a stand 4 which, in turn, expands at its lower end to form a foot part 6. At its upper end, the stand 4 expands to form a knob 7, by which the entire device can be grasped for transport purposes.

The shape and size of all elements of the inventive temperature control device can be made according to the individual conditions and requirements, e.g., the shape, size, and number of the drinking glasses that are to be accommodated. /6

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Claims /7

1. A temperature control device (1) for drinking glassing, having a body (2) with at least one longitudinal recess (3) extending continuously from the upper side, O, of the body to its lower side, U, for receiving a drinking glass.

2. A temperature control device as recited in Claim 1, characterized in that it has a stand (4), which is attached to the body (2) or is made in one piece with it.

3. A temperature control device as recited in Claim 1 or 2, characterized in that the recess (3) has an essentially circular cross section.

4. A temperature control device as recited in one of the previous claims, characterized in that it has a longitudinal slit (5), which extends essentially parallel to the recess (3) and forms a lateral access to the recess (3).

5. A temperature control device as recited in one of the previous claims, characterized in that it has an integrated electrical cooling device.

6. A temperature control device as recited in one of the previous claims, characterized in that the body (2) is solid.

7. A temperature control device as recited in one of the previous claims 1 through 5, characterized in that the body (2) has an inner cavity.

8. A temperature control device as recited in one of the /8

previous claims, characterized in that, on its lower end, the stand (4) has an enlarged foot part (6), whose cross-sectional area is at least approximately the cross-sectional area of the recess.

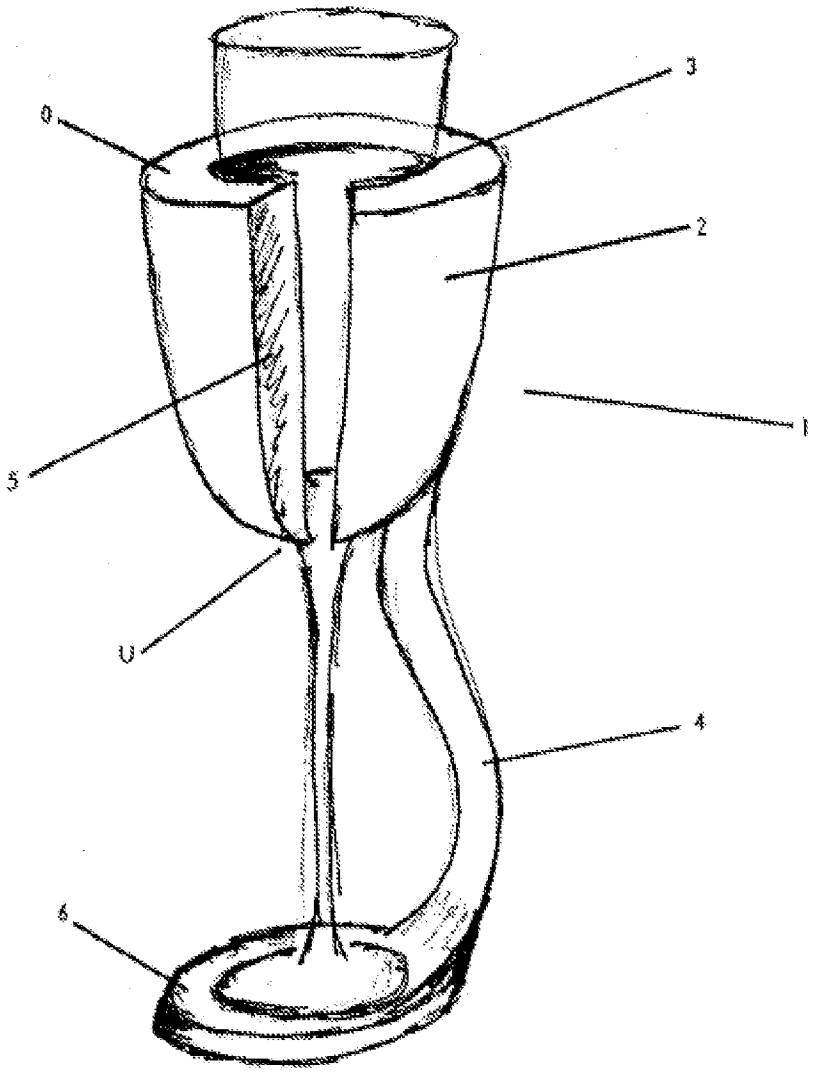

FIG. 1

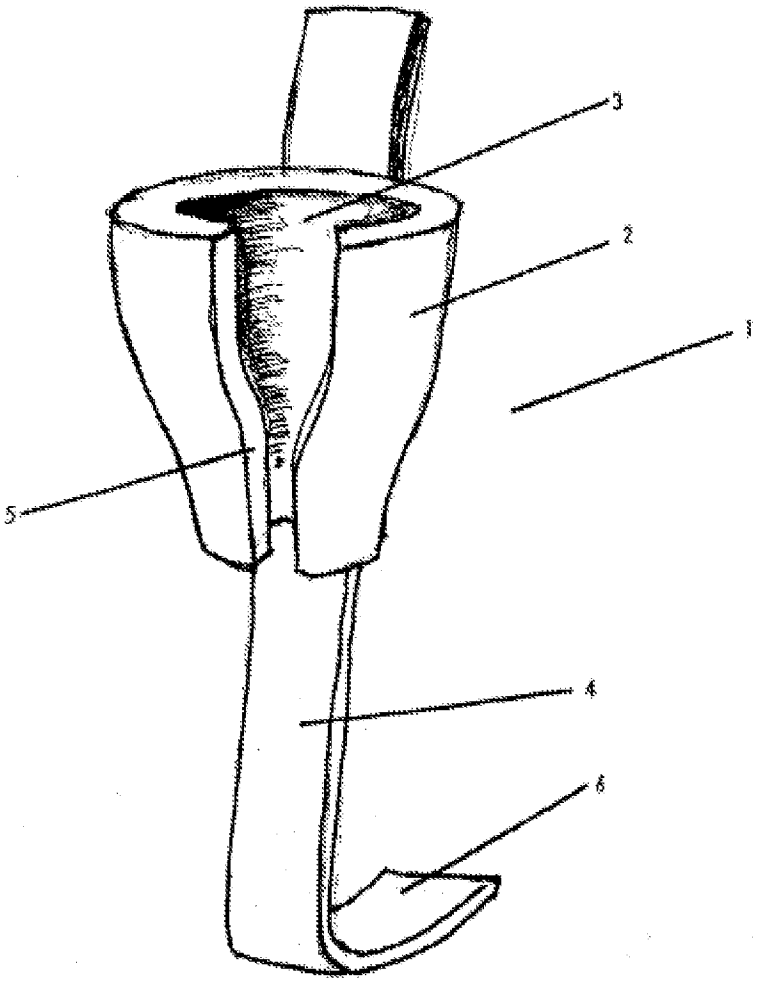

FIG. 2

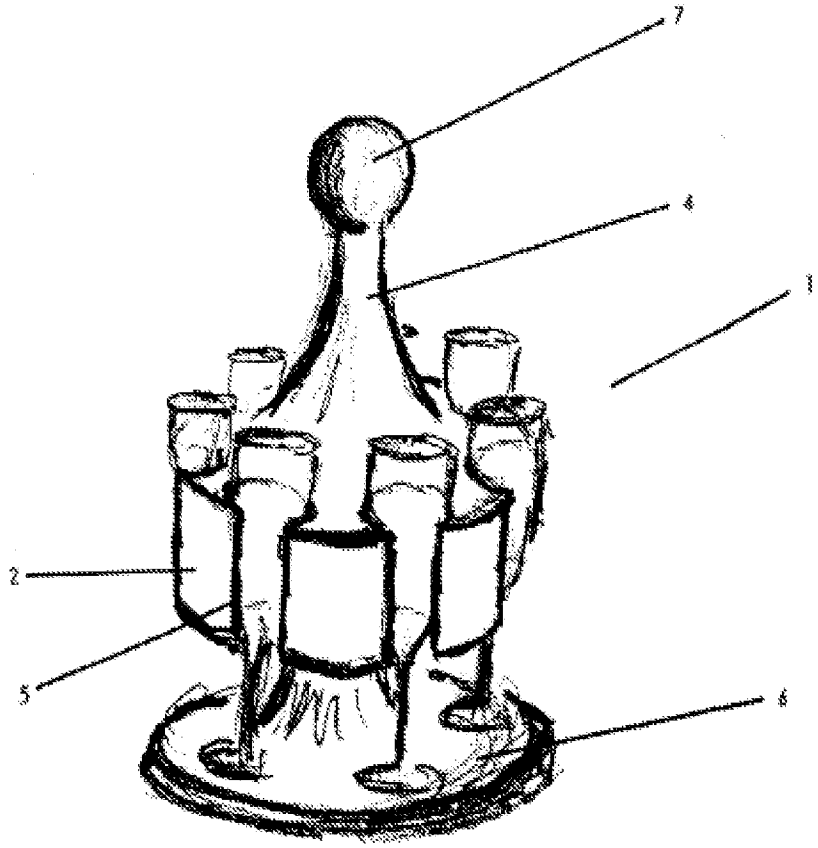

FIG. 3